

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR ALERTING CUSTOMERS IN A SHOPPING AREA

ABSTRACT

5 An alert notification system for customers and sales personnel in a shopping area and a
method of use is disclosed. In a first aspect, a system for alerting customers and sales
personnel that merchandise has been left in a shopping area is disclosed. The system
comprises a merchandise detector for detecting merchandise purchased by a customer and a
customer detector for detecting whether the customer has left the merchandise. The system
10 further includes a notification system responsive to the customer and merchandise detectors for
alerting the customer when the customer has left the purchased merchandise. In a second
aspect, the method comprises detecting the presence of merchandise associated with a
customer via a second detector and detecting whether the customer has left the merchandise via
a second detector. The method further includes alerting the customer, responsive to the first
15 and second detectors, via a notification mechanism if the customer has left the merchandise.
Accordingly, a system and method in accordance with the present invention provides for an
alert notification system for customers in a shopping area. By detecting individual customers
and the merchandise associated with each, a customer and/or sales personnel can be alerted if
he or she forgets the merchandise. In so doing the likelihood that a customer will leave the
20 merchandise in the shopping area is substantially reduced.